

5 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Current Intelligence

SUBJECT: NIS Annuals

REFERENCE: My memo to DD/I, subject: Handbook Program,
dated 24 September 1957

1. The NIS Committee has found it necessary to modify the planned features of the NIS Annuals, as set forth in paragraph 3 of reference memo, in view of the severely limited NIS production capabilities existing at this time. Instead of issuing NIS Annuals on all published Chapters I on a yearly basis, it is now planned to review annually all published Chapters I and to issue, in accordance with agencies' capabilities, NIS Annuals on a yearly basis for those Chapters I in which major changes have occurred, for which information has become available to fill major gaps, or both.

2. Implementation of this modified concept will result in limited revision of Chapters I where revision is most necessary, preservation of user confidence in Chapters I, and maximum utilization of basic intelligence research facilities for which the NIS staffs in the producing agencies are best adapted. Unlike the regional staffing pattern in OCI, the NIS staffs in the Defense Agencies are functional in nature so that analysts are unprepared for country-by-country analyses without undertaking thorough research of all source materials.

3. I have reluctantly concluded, therefore, that the present NIS Annual program will not replace the OCI Handbooks in their "primary emphasis on material of a changing nature, such as cabinet composition, economic statistics, etc." However, the present NIS Annual program will be adequate to reflect all fundamental changes in countries for which Chapters I are published.

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4. There is a continuing intelligence need for a sort of "World Almanac" type of reference handbook, primarily of a statistical nature, to reflect current changes in foreign countries of the world. If the present OCI Handbooks could be phased into this briefer type of current reference periodicals on foreign areas covered by NIS Chapters I, it would eliminate duplication of the basic intelligence properly handled by the NIS program and fill the current intelligence gap which would exist were the publication of OCI Handbooks suspended.

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Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence

cc: DD/I

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